

FINAL

JACK PILE - PAGUATE



Uranium Mine Reclamation Project

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 1986

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT OFFICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE



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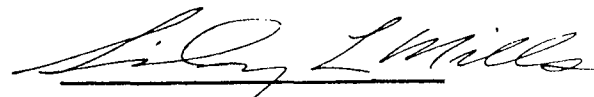
FINAL
Environmental Impact Statement
FOR THE
Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Reclamation Project
LAGUNA INDIAN RESERVATION
CIBOLA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District Office
Rio Puerco Resource Area

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Albuquerque Area Office


Monte Jordan
Acting State Director, New Mexico


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ABSTRACT: The Department of the Interior (DOI) proposes to approve a reclamation plan for the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. The mine is located on three leases of Laguna Indian Tribal land in Cibola County, west-central New Mexico. The mine was operated by Anaconda Minerals Company, a division of Atlantic Richfield Company, from 1953 through early 1982. The No Action Alternative and reclamation proposals developed by Anaconda, DOI (with two options) and the Pueblo of Laguna are analyzed in this document. A Preferred Alternative was developed using various components from these proposals. The affected environment consists of 2,656 acres of open pits, waste dumps and associated facilities. Under the No Action Alternative, the minesite would remain environmentally unsuitable for any productive land use except for mining. The reclamation proposals would, to varying degrees, restore the minesite to productive land use (primarily livestock grazing), reduce radiological and physical hazards, blend the visual characteristics of the minesite with the surrounding lands, and provide short-term employment for the Pueblo of Laguna. Reclamation would cause short-term adverse effects which would be mitigated to the extent possible.

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